I am not quite sure how old I was when I decided I wanted to be a teacher. All that I know is I have dreamt of it for as long as I can remember. It has not always been mathematics that I have wanted to teach. When I was younger I wanted to be a kindergarten teacher, in elementary school it was a gym teacher, and then in eighth grade I finally decided on a high school math teacher.

Before eighth grade I hated math. I didn’t understand it and I didn’t want to understand it. It wasn’t until my eighth grade math teacher sat me down and helped me understand. By her taking that extra time I found that I was actually able to do the work, and it made sense to me. Ever since that day I have been in love with math. I knew that that was what I wanted to do in life, to do math and teach others math. The older I got the more math classes I took, and I was able to explore different areas in mathematics. I decided that I wanted to teach high school students because I like the age group and learned a lot about myself in high school with some help from some great teachers. Also I want to teach more advanced math, algebra 2, pre-calculus, or trigonometry.

I am very much a logical learner. I like structure, routine, and thinking problems through logically. This will come in useful in my classroom because this type of thinking works well with mathematics. However I will have students in my classroom that do not think and learn this way. They will need move and create and work in groups. I will have to find a way to incorporate innovative ideas that will appeal to many types of students and give them the best chance at succeeding.

I think my fears about teaching are the typical ones that, hopefully, everyone has felt at some point on the road to becoming a teacher. I worry that I won’t be respected as a teacher, that I will tell students to do something and they won’t do it. I worry that I’ll make a mistake and get in trouble with administration. I worry that I won’t be able to find a job as a teacher after I graduate. I think my biggest fear is that I will fail the students. I have such high expectations of being a teacher that changes the way students think about math. What if I fail? If I turn into one of the teachers that just doesn’t care and turns into one the teachers that doesn’t try to appeal to all students. Who just teaches what needs to be done and doesn’t care what else happens.

What I hope to get from this class is how address my fears and overcome them. I want to learn how to be an effective teacher and how to incorporate many different aspects into my teaching. I want to embrace my learning and teaching styles while also being comfortable with using styles that are not natural to me. Overall I hope to become a better teacher and to develop my skills further.